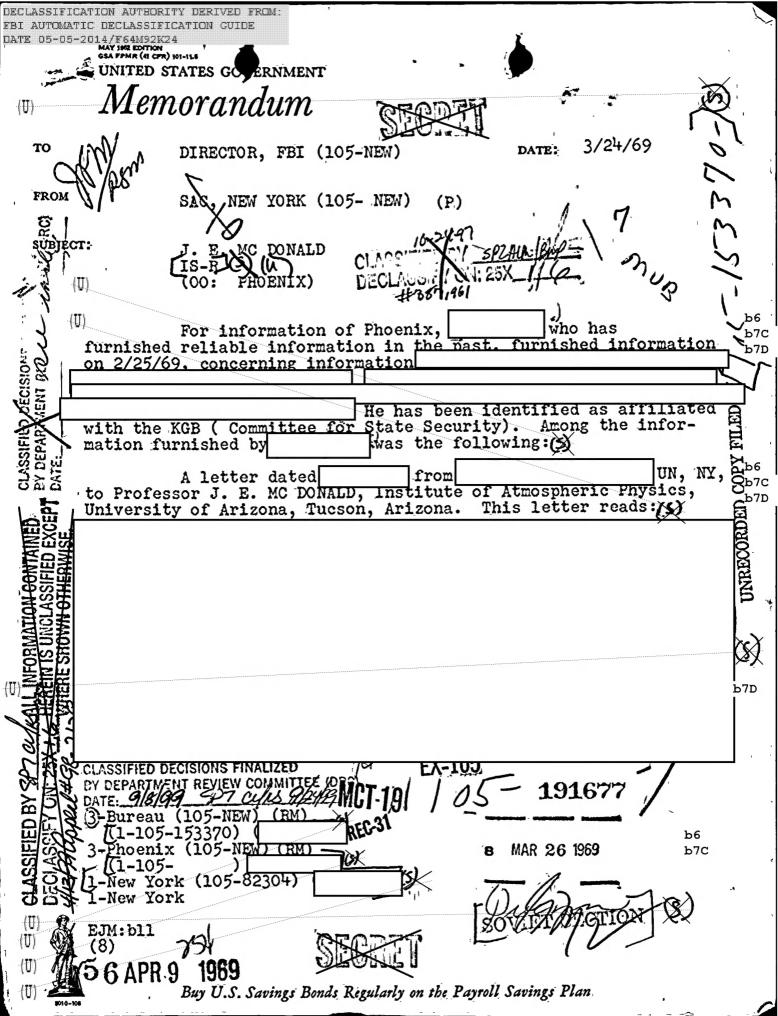
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOI/PA

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b6 b7С b7D

NY 105-NEW

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NYC indices contain no information identifiable with Professor J. E. MC DONALD.

Phoenix is requested to initiate investigation regarding Professor J. E. MC DONALD. who is reportedly in contact with, or of interest to,

This investigation should be handled in accordance with provisions relating to investigation of individuals in contact with Soviet be officials as contained in Section 105K, M of I. When this in-box vestigation is completed, Phoenix should give consideration to requesting Bureau authority for an interview of MC DONALD to determine the extent of MC DONALD's contacts with

NY 105-NEW

(U)

BECAUSE OF THE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE CONTACT OF WITH THE SUBJECT, IT IS NECESSARY THAT CAREFUL PARAPHARASING OF THE ABOVE MATERIAL BE USED TO PROTECT FULLY THE IDENTITY OF THE INFORMANT, AS WELL AS THE NATURE OF THE CONTACT, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASES OF COMMUNICATIONS WHICH ARE FURNISHED OUTSIDE THE FBI.

	ATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:		ŧ
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TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI	DATE:	= /0.6 /60
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FROM :	MAA DUOTUUT (200 0050) (5	CITAL	
110/11	\$40. PHOENIX (100-6252) (I		7 7 -1
	.\	CLASSIFIED DECISION	SFINALIZED
CITATA	1	BY DEPARTMENT REV	IEW COMMITTE
SUBJECT:	CHANGED	DATE 9/8/93	Profesion 2
-1	PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC	DONALD, aka 9/24/99	- 1-1911110 // 3
W 2.1	J. E MC DONALD		217
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7//	(Discouring 617 - 700 0051)	SM-SDS."	
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2.0		h for the Bureau are t	
MILL	of a letterhead memorandum	(LHM) entitled, "PROF	ESSOR JAMES
1 5.	EDWARD MC DONALD, Senior P		
	Physics, University of Ari	zona, Tucson, Arizona.	" (h)
1 1			$\sim$
5 3	Enclosed for New	York are two copies o	f the above
, 4r	LHM and one copy of above	referenced report on t	he
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10 4	Informants	File Loca	tion
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Į	contacted by SA RAYMER P. PETERS, JR.
ŧ	The LHM is classified CONFIDENTIAL, as disclosure of information therein from the above live informants could reasonably result in their identification, thereby jeopardizing their future effectiveness.
	As set out in the LHM, the subject is a prominent Atmospheric Physicist and is becoming well known publicly for his belief that Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are extraterrestrial and are real. The letter from to the subject as set out in re New
	York letter. refers
	It appears that Professor MC DONALD's letter to (contents of which are not known) might have been in itself an innocuous, sincere contact on the part of Professor MC DONALD; however, in view of his background and
)	long-time leadership in "New Left" activities in the Tucson area, it is quite probable that Professor MC DONALD would be highly susceptible to an approach made by a Soviet intelligence, particularly concerning a research done in his field, of Atmospheric Physics. At this point it is not known whether Professor MC DONALD would be at all cooperative in an interview.
	Professor MC DONALD's for some years has been (Phoenix file 161-
	and

-2-

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PX 100-6252 RPP:gjk

in any interview.

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completely cooperative and reliable in any authorized interview concerning this matter. Therefore, Bureau authority is requested for an interview with along the following lines:

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- 1. Information concerning Professor MC DONALD's
  "Plea for International Scientific Study of the Problem
  of the UFO." and Professor MC DONALD's activities regarding
  this. (5) (u)
- 2. His knowledge of any contact Professor MC DONALD has had with foreign agencies in his UFO studies, particularly Soviet bloc countries
- 3. His evaluation of Professor MC DONALD so far as his loyalty is concerned and his opinion as to whether Professor MC DONALD would be amenable to interview.

On 5/20/69.
interviewed by SA RAYMER P. PETERS. JR. concerning
interviewed by SA RAYMER P. PETERS. JR. concerning various SDS members at the VA, including
commented that he recently received information that Professor JAMES E. MC DONALD is "disenchanted" with
that Professor JAMES E. MC DONALD is "disenchanted" with
constant "New Left" activities and they plan to separate.
He further said he has heard that
This informa-
tion has not yet been confirmed through other sources; however, if true, it should have some bearing on MC DONALD's cooperation

SECRET



#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Phoenix, Arizona
May 26, 1969

CONTREMTIAL

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD Senior Physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics University of Arizona (UA) Tucson, Arizona

The current Student and Faculty Directory for the University of Arizona (UA), Tucson, Arizona, for the 1968-1969 academic year, lists "James E. Mc Donald, Ph.D., Senior Physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics and Professor, Meteorology Department, residence, 3461 East Third Street, Tucson."

On April 11,				
UA,	Tucson, made	available	records	which
show the following:		·		

James Edward Mc Donald was employed at the University, April 1, 1954, as Associate Director, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, and Associate Professor of Physics. On July 1, 1956, his title was changed to Scientific Director, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, and Associate Professor of Physics. On July 1, 1957, his title was changed to Senior Physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics; Professor of Meteorology; these are the positions he now holds.

The records show he was born May 7, 1920, at Duluth, Minnesota. He attended the University of Omaha from 1938 to 1942, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1942. He attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1943 to 1945, receiving

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ENCLOSURE 105-191677-2 b6 b7С b7D

# CONFIDENTIAL

#### PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

a Master of Science degree in 1945. He attended Iowa State from 1946 to 1951, receiving his doctorate in 1951.

The records show that he was on Sabbatical Leave from July 1, 1963 to December 31, 1963. In his application for this leave, dated April 12, 1963, he said, "I will continue working on research and affairs of Naval Research Contract # NR-082-164." He stated his main reason in applying for Sabbatical Leave was to write up already completed research for publication.

His salary as of May 18, 1969, was \$21,000 per year.

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PX T-1 (5/20/69).

The SDS is characterized in the appendix.

Concerning the PFA, the March 16, 1968 redition of "The Tucson Daily Citizen," a daily newspaper published at Tucson, "Arizona, carried an article which stated in part, as follows:

'The formation of Peace and Freedom
Associations, a coalition of local groups
dedicated to end the war in Vietnam and to
ending racial injustice at home, was announced
today. The center will serve as a communications
interchange between local and national peace
groups and will be the focal point of local efforts

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### CONFIDENTIAL.

#### PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

against the Vietnam War." A list of member organizations set out in the article included the SDS, above.

On October 18, 1968, at a meeting of the PFA in Tucson, reported to the group on her recent attendance at a convention of the SDS at Boulder, Colorado.

#### PX T-1 (10/18/68).

A bulletin put out by the Tucson Peace Center (TPC) and received through the mail, February 7, 1968, advertised the fact that on February 8, 1968, there would be a public meeting, where Dr. James E. Mc Donald would speak on the subject of napalm. The bulletin described Mc Donald as "Professor of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona and Consultant to the Peace Center."

# PX(T-2)(2/12/68).

A region of the

On February 18, 1969, PX T-1 advised that an accurate summary of the aims and purposes of the TPC was set out in a mimeograph letter dated October 22, 1968, from the TPC President and sent to all persons on the TPC mailing list. This letter stated in part, 'The Tucson Peace Center serves as a clearing house for information on peace activities and programs in the Tucson area." The source said the TPC has never at any time advocated the use of violence in demonstrations or protests.

On May 20, 1969, PX T-1 advised that although Professor Tames E. Mc Donald possibly condones activities in the various "New Left" groups in the Tucson area, he very seldom accompanies her in any of these activities and has taken very little part in such activities.

CONFIDENTIAL

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### PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

The July 27, 1968, edition of the "Arizona Daily Star," a newspaper published daily at Tucson, Arizona, carried the following article:

# UA Physicist To Spur Scientific UFO Probe

#### Will Appear Before House Committee

By JUDY DONOVAN

A University of Arizona physicist will attempt to spur on extensive scientific investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects when he appears Monday before a congressional hearing in Washington, D. C.

Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the university's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, said a thorough investigation of UFOs is long overdue. Twenty years have passed since the objects first attracted public attention, he said, and officialdom is still taking a ,"ho-hum" attitude toward the matter.

" "UFOs constitute an extraordinarily important scientific problem, the greatest of these times, and it has been shoved under the rug," he remarked.



DR. JAMES McDONALD

pearing with five other scientists from around the United States, will present testimony The UA physicist who is ap- before the U.S. House of Repre-

sentatives Committee on Science and Astronautics. McDonald said Rep. Morris K. Udall was highly instrumental in efforts to arrange for the special Unidentified Flying Objects Symposium.

McDonald is oragnizing the bulk of his presentation around a set of typical questions people ask about UFOs, such as, "Why they aren't picked up on ra-dar?," and "Why they don't contact us?"

He will include examples of what he termed "scientifically ludicrous explanations" that hinge on some scientists' meteorological and atmospheric physical weather explanations for UFOs.

"I particuarly take issue with Dr. Donald H. Menzel, former director of Harvard Observatory, who has written two books on UFOs and mainly explains them away as meteorological phenomena. Another work that can't be taken seriously is a recent book by Philip Klass, senior editor of Aviation Week Magazine, which purports that UFOs are meteorologically generated plasmas of the ball lightning type."

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#### **XDENTIAL**

#### PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

The April 6, 1969, edition of the "Arizona Daily Star," carried the following article:

# **UA Prof Will Challenge** Condon Report On UFO's

2-24-2 UA PROF PAGE 5A

tified flying objects will be chal- for study. lenged before the Vandenberg Chapter, American Institute of years Dr. McDonald believes Aeronautics and Astronautics, that UFO's are probably extraby Dr. James E. McDonald terrestrial and are real. when he speaks at Vandenberg Air Force Base Friday.

don Report: A Dissenting nautics in Oklahoma, California, View." As a dissenter, Dr. McDonald expects to stress the fact that the Condon report cov-

/ ers only a "minute fraction" of The Condon report on uniden- the significant cases available

From his studies of several

His talk at the air force base in California will be the first in The senior physicist of the a series of 15 lectures he will University of Arizona's Institute give in the next 12 months to of Atmospheric Physics will members of the American Inspeak on "UFO's and the Con- stitute of Aeronautics and Astro-

## CONFIDENTIAL

#### PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

#### APPENDIX

#### STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

The Students for a Democratic Party (SDS), as it is known today, came into being at a founding convention held at Port Huron, Michigan, in June, 1962. The SDS is an association of young people on the left and has a current program of protesting the draft, promoting a campaign for youth to develop a conscientious objector status, denouncing United States intervention in the war in Vietnam, and to "radically transform" the university community, and provide for its complete control by students.

Gus Hall, General Secretary, Communist Party, USA, when interviewed by a representative of United Press International in San Francisco, California, on May 14, 1965, described the SDS as a part of the "responsible left" which the Party has "going for us." At the June, 1965, SDS National Convention, an anticommunist proviso was removed from the SDS constitution. In the October 7, 1966, issue of "New Left Notes," the official publication of SDS, an SDS spokesman stated that there are some communists in SDS and they are welcome.

This document contains neither recommendation nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONTIDENTIAL



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Phoenix, Arizona May 26, 1969

Title

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

Senior Physicist,

Institute of Atmospheric Physics

University of Arizona

Tucson, Arizona

Character

Reference Letterhead memorandum, dated and

captioned as above at Phoenix,

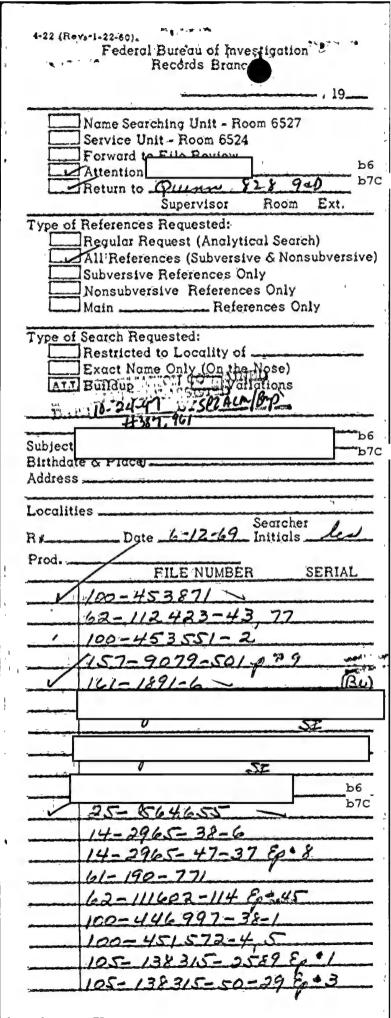
Arizona.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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Service Unit - Room 6524
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Tolson Tolson UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT	
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TO Mr. W. C. Sullivan DATE: June 20, 1969 Gale-Rosen Sullivan Sullivan	<u>.                                    </u>
FROM: W A Branigan Tole Room -	
W. A. Branigan 1 - Mr. G. M. Quinn Gondy	
SUBJECT: PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD 0-1PX 9-5-69	
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA Let WBS 9-17-69	
Submitted to obtain authority to interview	1
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Dtate Security officari	
on thermodynamic properties of the earth's atmosphere from 10 to 100 kilometers. Subject, born 5-7-20, is senior physicist, authority on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO). Applicant- type investigation of subject in 1962, favorable re loyalty, Character, and nonvitation.	
authority on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO). Applicant-	
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is disenchanted with "New Left" activities and	B
Separation planned	B
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Department of Meteorology, UA, is friendly to Bureau and believed he	67C
will be completely cooperative. is subject recent applicant-type investigation, results completely favorable.	180
subject and are not pacifists, but interested in page	S
recommended subject for position of trust and confidence.	Po
Phoenix desires interview concerning subject's UFO studies, knowledge of contacts with foreign	
2 4 4 8 80 veriments, particularly Soviet-bloc countries Rhimmont	
evaluation of subject, and opinion whether subject amenable to interview. No reason to anticipate embarrassment. We	**
Since we know is using position to obtain	b6
3 scientific information.	b7C
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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan RE: PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD 105-191677



#### RECOMMENDATION:

Attached for approval is letter to Phoenix in accordance with above instructing interview be conducted away from campus, UA, and explain not interested in legitimate educational functions.

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	authority to intervie in accordance with pa	w subject, subminge 29, Section 1	it request on r 105K, Manual of	D-379 Instructions.
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DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM UNITED STATES GO emorandum DIRECTOR, FBI (105-191677) FROM PHOENIX (100-6252) (C) HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPTS WHERE SHOWN OTHERWICE SUBJECT: PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MCDONALD, aka J. E. McDonald 00: Phoenix Re Phoenix letter with its LHM, 5/26/69, entitled, "PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MCDONALD, aka J. E. McDonald' and Bulet to Phoenix, 6/23/69. Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are nine copies of an LHM entitled. "PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MCDONALD. SENIOR PHYSICIST, INSTITUTE OF ATMOSPHERIC PHYSICS, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, TUCSON, ARIZONA"; two copies of the LHM are enclosed for New York for information. Agent who interviewed is SA RAYMER P. PETERS. JR. The LHM is classified CONFIDENTIAL as this inquiry was based on information obtained from an extremely sensitive source of the NYO. As set out in the LHM, b7C said he has no doubt whatever of the subject loyalty to this country. He said he feels certain the

subject's contact with the Soviet representative at the UN Secretariat in mid-1968 in connection with the subject's "UFO" studies, was completely innocuous and he does not believe that MCDONALD would be receptive to any approach by the Soviets or any other country to act in any capacity against the best interests of the United States. He said Professor MCDONALD has mentioned no further correspondence with the above Soviet representative other than the initial reply to MCDONALD's original inquiry. MCDONALD uses the same secretary as does

Professor James Edward McDonald) (1 - 105 -(1 - 105 - 82304)1 - Phoenix

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and she has made no mention of any such further correspondence between MCDONALD and the Soviet representative said he would be alert for any indication of such continued contacts and he would contact the Tucson Resident Agency of the FBI, should he develop any such information.

is considered completely reliable and he assured interviewing agent that he would keep this matter in complete confidence.

At this point it does not appear that an interview of Professor MCDONALD would be productive and could possibly result in embarrassment to the Bureau. Although Professor MCDONALD might not object to such an interview it is almost certain that (SI subject of the Phoenix Office), would attempt to publicly denounce the Bureau for such an interview. For this reason a request for authority to interview the subject is not being made at this time.

If New York develops further information concerning this matter from or other sources, such information should be furnished to Phoenix.

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In Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Phoenix, Arizona September 17, 1969

CONFINENTIAL

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MCDONALD SENIOR PHYSICIST

ECLASSIFIED BY SPACE AND INSTITUTE OF ATMOSPHERIC PHYSICS UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA TUCSON, ARIZONA

University of Arizona (UA), Tucson, Arizona furnished the following information to a Special Agent of the FBI:
Professor James Edward McDonald, Ph.D., is currently employed as senior physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, at the UA. He has been employed at the UA since 1954 and has been closely associated with him both professionally and socially since 1946 when both were students at Iowa State University, Iowa.
said he considers Professor McDonald a sincere, conscientious and dedicated scientist who is very outspoken in both his scientific and political views.  who described himself as a political conservative, said his own political views are quite opposite those of Professor McDonald and although he sees the McDonald family quite frequently socially, they seldom discuss political matters because of this divergence of views. He said he has no doubt whatsoever that Professor McDonald is completely loyal to the United States.
said Professor McDonald for the past several years has been obsessed with the idea that Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are probably extraterrestrial and are real. He has lectured before various groups throughout the country during the past year on the subject of UFOs and has publicly challenged reports by the U.S. Air Force and other

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Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification.

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RE: PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MCDONALD

agencies who discount the possibility that UFOs are real and from outer space.

In mid-1968, as part of his research into the question of UFOs. Professor McDonald wrote to a number of representatives of various countries soliciting information concerning sightings of UFOs in these countries. He entitled this project. "A Plea for International Scientific Study of the Problem of the UFO." The principal reason for this effort was to obtain reports of UFO sightings from more or less underdeveloped areas of the world where people reporting these sightings would not have been previously exposed to publicity about UFOs. said Professor McDonald contacted representatives of several agencies at the United Nations in New York, including the Soviet representative of the Outer Space Affairs Group, United Nations Secretariat. does not know the name of this individual. He said Professor McDonald mentioned receiving a reply from this Soviet representative but he does not recall whether Professor McDonald ever mentioned any further contacts with that individual. said he believes that if there had been further contacts between Professor McDonald and the above Soviet representative, that he, Professor McDonald, probably would have mentioned this fact. said his department at the UA is not engaged in any classified research projects and Professor McDonald at the present time does not have access to any classified research material. reiterated that he has never had any reason whatever to question Professor McDonald's complete loyalty to the United States. This document contains neither recommendations nor

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



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March 18, 1971

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BY LIAISON

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield Deputy Assistant to the President DECLASSIFIED BY SPZ ACM/BMP The White House Washington, D. C.

. Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Reference is made to your name check request concerning and some other individuals.

Attached are separate memoranda concerning the following individuals:

Dr. James Edward McDonald

This letter of transmittal may be declassified when the enclosures bearing a classification are removed. 1500

Sincerely yours.

11-71

Enclosures (7)

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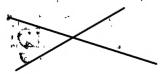
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March 18, 1971 DR. JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD (DRC) Dr. James Edward McDonald, who you advised was born May 7, 1920, in Duluth, Minnesota, and who resides at 3461 East Third Street, Tucson, Arizona, was the subject of favorable applicant-type inwestigations in 1949 and 1962. A summary of these investigations dated March 12, 1962 is attached. (161-1891) b6 b7C He was also the subject of a security-type investigation in 1969, concerning his contact with Our investigation indicated Dr. McDonald's contact was in connection with his study of unidentified flying objects and his attempts to obtain information from sparsely populated parts of the world. No evidence of subversive activities on his part was determined. (105-191677) Our files indicate that individual. As of late 1970. In October, 1968, reportedly attended the SDS National Convention in Boulder, Colorado, and was overheard telling a group in Tucson upon her return that she favored violence, if necessary, to achieve the goals of the SDS. (100-453871) A confidential source in a position to know advised in mid-1969 he had recently received information that Professor James Edward McDonald was disenchanted with constant New Left activities and that they planned to separate. The source also said he has heard b6 b7C 105-191677) The central files of the FBI, including the files of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned Sullivan individual based upon background information submitted in connection with this Bishop name check request. Enclosure CONFIDENTIAL Casper . Conrad Ground 1 Dalbey Felt . Excluded from automatic Gale downgrading and declassification Rosen Tavel 1 (167) SEE NOTE - NEXT PAGE Walters Sovere 4 KPW:pan/lg/mij. (7) Tele! Room

Dr. James Edward McDonald



NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President. This memo classified "Confidential" in as much as it contains information previously so classified

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